

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3664

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3629

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T USNATO 0310

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/82

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: SECDEF STATEMENT ON STRATEGIC FORCES

REF: STATE 012682

1. AT NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) MEETING ON JANUARY 21, DANISH REP, SUPPORTED BY NETHERLANDS REP, RAISED MATTER OF SECDEF'S JANUARY 10 COMMENTS ON STRATEGIC RETARGETING. HE SUGGESTED THAT NPG SG OR PERMREPS IN DPC SHOULD DEAL WITH THE MATTER MORE FULLY, AND ASKED WHETHER U.S. DELEGATION COULD PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY TO THE REASONS FOR THE U.S. DECISION.

2. U.S. REP DREW ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED REFTTEL, STRESSING IN PARTICULAR THAT MAJOR THEMES IN SECDEF COMMENTS ARE NOT NEW, AND THAT THE SHIFT IN TARGETING IS ONE OF EMPHASIS, SINCE U.S. HAS ALWAYS TARGETED SOME MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AS WELL AS URBAN INDUSTRIAL CENTERS. U.S. REMARKS
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WERE WELL RECEIVED.

3. CANADIAN REP AGREED THAT SUBJECT WAS NOT NEW, AND CHARACTERIZED MATTER AS "PART OF AN ONGOING DIALOGUE." HE

FELT NPG WAS PROPER FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT, NOTING THAT IT HAD BEEN RAISED AT THE HAGUE AND THAT MINISTERS WOULD CERTAINLY WISH TO ADDRESS IT AGAIN IN NORWAY IN JUNE. HE SAID QUESTION OF WHETHER WE NEED OTHER MEETINGS ON THE SUBJECT, OR MORE INFORMATION IN THE MEAN-TIME, WAS AN OPEN ONE.

4. UK REP SAID U.S. POINTS PUT SUBJECT INTO HELPFUL CONTEXT. HE RAISED QUESTION WHETHER ANY DPC DOCUMENTS SUCH AS "CONCEPT FOR THE ROLE OF THEATER NUCLEAR STRIKE FORCES IN ACE" (DPC/D(70)59) SHOULD BE REVISED IN LIGHT OF U.S. ACTION. U.S. REP EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THIS WOULD BE NECESSARY, SINCE SHIFT IN TARGETING WAS ONE OF EMPHASIS AND UNLIKELY TO AFFECT BASIC STRIKE CONCEPTS. ITALIAN REP SUGGESTED THAT U.S. ACTION MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO EUROPEANS IN SENSE THAT MORE STRATEGIC RESOURCES MIGHT NOW BE AVAILABLE TO TARGET PRESENTLY UNCOVERED SOVIET MISSILES AND AIRCRAFT CURRENTLY AIMED AT WESTERN EUROPE.

5. IS CHAIRMAN (SEIM) SUPPORTED POINTS MADE BY U.S. CONCERNING POTENTIAL FOR RETARGETING IN LIGHT OF MIRV AND INCREASED ACCURACY. HE AGREED WITH CANADA THAT MATTER WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION BY NPG MINISTERS IN JUNE.

6. COMMENT: GUIDANCE IN REFTEL WAS USEFUL IN ALLOWING US TO RESPOND SUBSTANTIVELY TO FIRST FORMAL QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT IN NPG. WE FEEL SURE, HOWEVER, THAT OUR ALLIES WILL PURSUE IT IN THIS AND OTHER NATO FORA, AND URGE WASHINGTON TO NOTIFY US OF PLANS FOR CONSULTATION HERE.
RUMSFELD

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